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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Public invited to meetings in Meridian, Caldwell to review future plans for U.S. 20/26

MERIDIAN—The public is invited to attend one of two public meetings Wednesday or Thursday (May 30 and 31) from 5 to 8 p.m. to give input on a study to improve U.S. 20/26 from Eagle Road to Caldwell.

The study, called the U.S. 20/26 Corridor Preservation Study, is co-sponsored by the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) and the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD). It began last spring as a way to identify future transportation improvements and right-of-way needs for U.S. 20/26.

At the meeting, the public will have the opportunity to review and give input on the roadway alignment options and the strategies ITD and local governments propose to use in the future to manage access on and off the roadway. These options incorporate comments that the study team received from the public at meetings last year.

The open-house style meetings are scheduled for:

Wed., May 30, 2007 5 to 8 p.m.

Friendship Celebration Church
765 E. Chinden Blvd., Meridian
*(east of Zamzows on the south side of
Chinden Boulevard)*

Thurs., May 31, 2007 5 to 8 p.m.

Thomas Jefferson Charter School
1209 Adam Smith Ave., Caldwell
(south on Smeed Parkway from U.S. 20/26)

Input from the meetings will be used to refine the roadway alternatives before ITD and COMPASS present their final recommendations at a public hearing. The improvements will be phased in over time as construction funds become available.

“Within the next 40 years, we expect to see U.S. 20/26 transformed into an urban corridor. It’s essential to coordinate land use and transportation planning now so that the roadway will be a safe east-west route in the future,” said ITD project manager Sue Sullivan. “This requires a major partnership with local governments.”

More information about the study is available at www.itd.idaho.gov by clicking on Get Involved, Southwest Idaho, and U.S. 20/26 Corridor Study.